

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Sealaska Heritage Institute****Federal Tax ID: 92-0081844****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Sealaska Heritage Institute - Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce Training Programming

**State Funding Requested: \$510,000****House District: Southeast Region (33-36)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Sealaska Heritage's Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce Training Programming provides significant economic impact to Juneau and communities of Southeast Alaska through rural compatible/sustainable jobs and supplemental income.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$990,000)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$510,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Sealaska Corporation, US Department of Education***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is requesting funds for Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce Training Programming that will provide significant economic impact to Juneau and communities of Southeast Alaska through rural compatible/sustainable jobs and supplemental income. As the visitor industry rebounds in Southeast Alaska, there is a significant gap in the amount of authentic Alaska Native arts as well as Alaska made products that is currently being filled by importing substantial items from overseas. Through these proposed training programs, SHI will continue to grow artists skills, improve their artforms, and most importantly, ensure that Alaska Native arts and crafts are authentic.

The completion of the Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus in Alaska's capital city allows SHI to expand programming enhancing the arts economy of Juneau, Southeast, and the entire state. SHI's arts programming is responsive to SHI and CBJ's goal of making Juneau the Northwest Coast Arts (NWC art) capital of the world. Over the past three years, Sealaska Heritage Institute raised nearly \$14 million to construct a state-of-the-art training facility for the Arts in downtown Juneau. The Arts Campus will provide dedicated space for Wood arts, Metal Arts, Textiles and Skin Sewing, and lastly digital and performing arts. These core spaces will be outfitted with all the necessary equipment to meet a wide array of classes and workshops--of which many will be offered as co-sponsored classes with UAS and/or IAIA for credit and non-credit options.

Northwest Coast arts are ancient art forms indigenous to the Pacific Northwest coast. Arts in Southeast Alaska are a significant economic driver. As of the latest Arts Economy of Southeast Alaska report (Southeast Conference, 2013), artist, arts organizations, and audience annual spending in Southeast Alaska totaled an estimated \$57.8m. It is estimated artists

earned revenue of \$29.9m in 2013, nearly twice the amount of revenue generated from the regional timber industry. Most artists in Southeast were found not to rely exclusively on art for income, but artists utilized arts to supplement other income, particularly in economically depressed rural Alaska. The arts are a strong economic driver, and Sealaska Heritage's programming creates workforce opportunities for often underserved individuals.

SHI has partnerships with 13 tribes and tribal organizations throughout the region, 11 school districts/universities, 4 educational/cultural organizations, and 6 government/businesses. Existing programming SHI conducts includes arts classes for incarcerated individuals to earn income while incarcerated and upon re-entering society, arts classes for K12 students, and the general public. Sealaska Heritage has continued programming through covid-19 and expects to increase programming in 2022 through the support of this project. Courses included marine mammal fur sewing, beginner/intermediate/advanced basketry (cedar, spruce root), and wool robe weaving (Chilkat and Ravenstail), wood and metal carving, jewelry making, chasing and repousse, tool making, inlay, box drum and bentwood box making, mask and clan hat carving, painting, and digital arts.

Programs were offered in or attended virtually by residents of Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Yakutat, Klukwan, Skagway, Hines, Hoonah, Angoon, Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Klawock, Craig, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Anchorage, Bering Straits, Bethel, Fairbanks, Kenai, Kodiak, Lower Kuskokwim, Nome, and Utqiagvik, as well as Canada and the Lower 48.

Funding the Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce Training Programming would leverage additional investments in Alaska Native Arts Training programs by Sealaska and other funders thus continuing to expand options for learning and education in the arts. Sealaska Heritage operates arts programming in partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast, the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, and tribes and school districts throughout Southeast Alaska.

### Project Timeline:

SHI operates Alaska Native Arts Economy and Workforce Training Programming throughout the year, and funds received from the State will leverage additional investments from private and public sources. Expenditures will occur July 1-June 30.

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Sealaska Heritage Institute

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No